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NEWS RELEASE

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SACRAMENTO MAN INDICTED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

SACRAMENTO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that DANIEL JAMES O'NEIL, JR., 46, of Sacramento, was arrested this morning following his indictment by a federal grand jury charging him with possessing and receiving images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The defendant was arraigned on the charges this afternoon by United States Magistrate Judge Kimberly J. Mueller.

This case is the product of an investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which was undertaken as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC).

PSC is a United States Department of Justice initiative established to increase federal prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children, and to reduce the number of Internet crimes against children including child pornography trafficking. As a part of PSC, the United States Attorney's Office has teamed with state and local agencies and organizations to increase law enforcement presence on the Internet and to educate the public about safe Internet use, thereby reducing the risk that children might fall prey to online sexual predators. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to www.projectsafefchildhood.gov or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Philip Ferrari, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that on August 9, 2007, O'NEIL possessed images of child pornography on his computer and that in January of 2005 he received child pornography on his computer.

The maximum statutory penalty for receipt of child pornography in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(2) is 20 years in prison, and the offense carries a five year mandatory minimum sentence. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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